

# Jonathan Jones

**barrangal dyara**  
**(skin and bones)**

**activity booklet**

17 September  
- 3 October 2016  
Royal Botanic Garden  
Sydney

KALDOR  
PUBLIC  
ART  
PROJECTS

32

200 BIRTHDAY

ROYAL  
BOTANIC  
GARDEN  
SYDNEY

# Welcome to barrangal dyara (skin and bones)

Jonathan Jones' artwork *barrangal dyara (skin and bones)* is the very first *Kaldor Public Art Project* presented by an Australian Aboriginal artist.

This project recalls the *Garden Palace*, which stood in the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and was built to display the *1879 Sydney International Exhibition*. The grand building mysteriously burned down three short years later, and many, many Aboriginal objects were lost in the fire.

Jonathan Jones' artwork stretches across *20,000 square metres* and traces the *Garden Palace's* enormous footprint. (That's the size of 2 football fields!) The artist is interested in the building, the site and Aboriginal culture and history – his art materials are *language, shields and kangaroo grass*.

Complete the activities in this book to understand more about *barrangal dyara (skin and bones)*.

# Uncle Chicka's Welcome to Country

My name is Charles Madden, known around the inner city as Chicka. That's a name I got going to Redfern Public School. I'm from Gadigal land, Aboriginal land. The Gadigal clan is one of twenty-nine clans that make up the Eora nation.

The Eora nation is bounded by nature's own: the Hawkesbury River to the north, the Nepean River to the west, and the Georges River to the south. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to country - welcome to Gadigal land, Aboriginal land. barrangal dyara (skin and bones) is an important project for Sydney, because it talks about our survival as Aboriginal people.

WELCOME.

WELCOME.

WELCOME.



Members of Aboriginal communities are respectfully advised that this exhibition recalls the loss of cultural objects from across the south-east of Australia.

# CADI JAM ORA

(I am in Cadi)

Which plant's flowers can be made into a sweet high-energy drink?

Read the labels around the Cadi Jam Ora: First Encounters garden to learn about the Gadigal/Cadigal history and use for each plant. Follow the clues to find the local Aboriginal plant name, then fill in the missing letters!

Which flower stems can be eaten raw or roasted?

Which plant is shown in this drawing?



Arrange all the missing letters to find out the local Aboriginal words for 'skin' & 'bones'?

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.

Which tree's bark  
can be used for lining  
shelters and for wrapping  
newborn babies?



Which plant's leaves  
were used to mend  
Gadigal canoes?

Which plant's resin  
has been used by  
Gadigal people as  
a powerful glue?

Which plant's seeds  
are highly nutritious,  
but poisonous?

(How could the Gadigal  
people eat something  
poisonous?!)



# ABORIGINAL AGRICULTURE

Did you know that Aboriginal people were the world's first bakers?

A grindstone found in northern NSW shows that Aboriginal people were grinding seeds of native grasses such as kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) to make bread 15,000 years before the ancient Egyptians.

That's 30,000 years of harvesting grasses and perfecting the art of bread making!

Find these words hidden on the grindstone:

FIRE	COMMUNITY	BREAD	FIRST	
NSW	BAKERS	PEOPLE	AUSTRALIA	GRINDSTONE
			ABORIGINAL	SEEDS
				NATIVE
				KANGAROO GRASS



Did you know that kangaroo grass loves a good fire?

Aboriginal communities have used fire to regenerate the land over thousands of years, and worked together to tend and harvest native grass crops. Aboriginal women traditionally ground the grass seeds into a paste or dough to make bread.



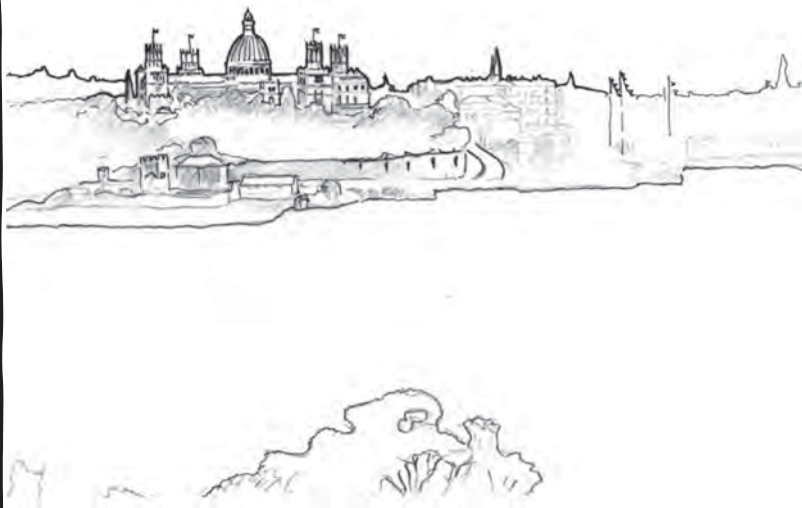
Kangaroo grass provides habitats for native Australian animals.  
Can you find and colour eight different creatures?  
(Hint: one of them has eight legs)

Have you found the native meadow of kangaroo grass in the Pioneer Memorial Garden?

Why do you think the artist has planted kangaroo grass here?

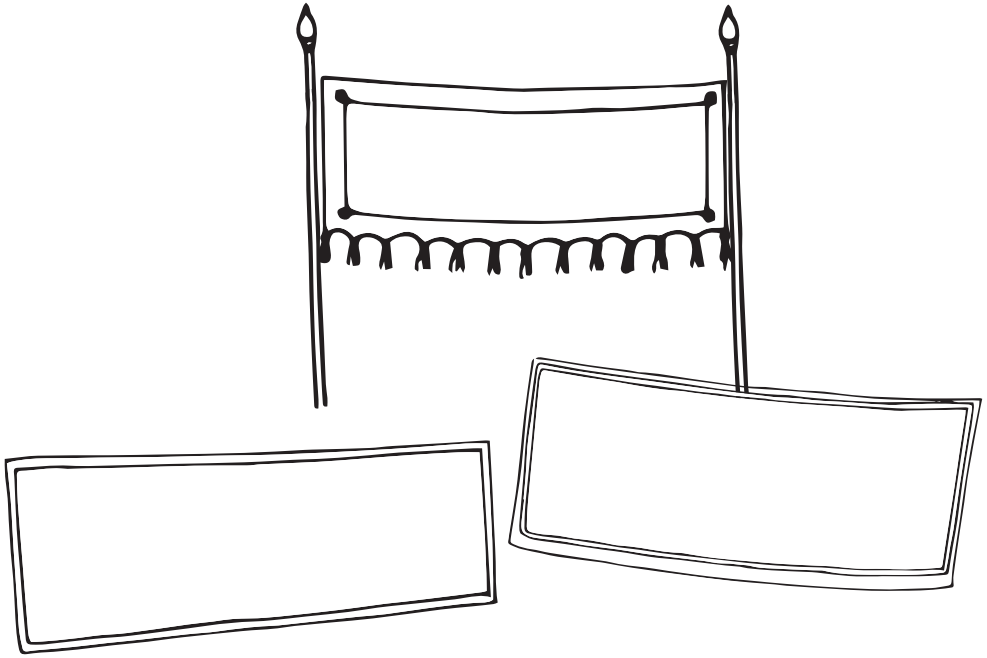
1. Kangaroo and joey; 2. Wallaby; 3. Bandicoot; 4. Wombat; 5. Honeyeater; 6. Lyrebird; 7. Orb spider; 8. &

# Welcome to the Palm House



Find this photograph of the Garden Palace seen from afar.  
Draw what you might see on Sydney Harbour today.  
(Hint: includes other famous buildings!)

Fill in these banners with the names of colonies featured in the photographs. (Hint: many are now states of Australia)



What sweet treat representing NSW can you see in one of the images? Write your answer on the pots below.



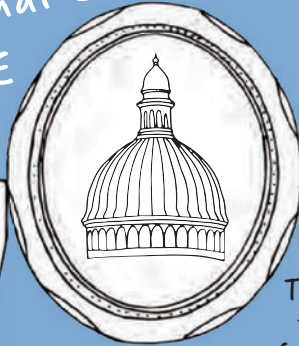
Aboriginal objects are clearly displayed in the photograph of the Ethnological Court. What objects can you see displayed?

In *barrangal dyara* (skin and bones), the artist wants us to remember the people who made and used these objects, to listen to their stories, and to learn about their culture.

The **FIRSTS**, the **BIGGEST**, and  
the **CAN YOU BELIEVES?! of the**  
Sydney International Exhibition in the  
**GARDEN PALACE**

1. For the first time  
in Australia, people  
were able to travel  
to each level of the  
building via a...

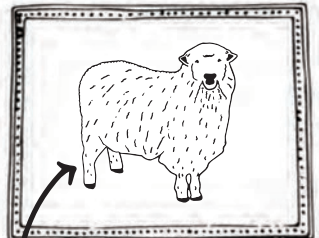
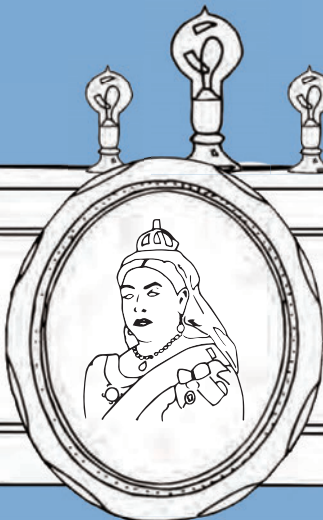
- (a) very tall giraffe
- (b) passenger elevator
- (c) rocket



The Garden Palace featured  
the **LARGEST** dome in the  
Southern Hemisphere and the  
sixth largest in the world!!

2. The Garden Palace's dome  
sat proudly over a statue of...

- (a) a giant prawn
- (b) The Huntsman and Dogs
- (c) Queen Victoria



Australia displayed its resources  
such as wool, wheat and gold.

**3. Which Sydney museum DIDN'T develop from the Garden Palace?**

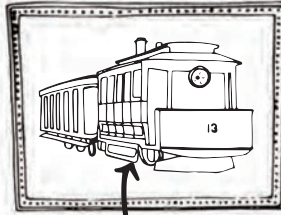
- (a) Art Gallery of NSW
- (b) The Powerhouse Museum (Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences)
- (c) Museum of Contemporary Art

**5. What was used for the first time in Australia during the construction of the Garden Palace?**

- (a) hammers and nails
- (b) electric lights
- (c) 3D printers

**4. How many people entered the Garden Palace Gates for the exhibition?**

- (a) 1 million
- (b) 5,000
- (c) 80,000 (the population of Sydney at the time)



There were so many visitors to the exhibition, that Sydney installed its first steam tram!



What would you like to see at the International Exhibition?  
Draw it here!

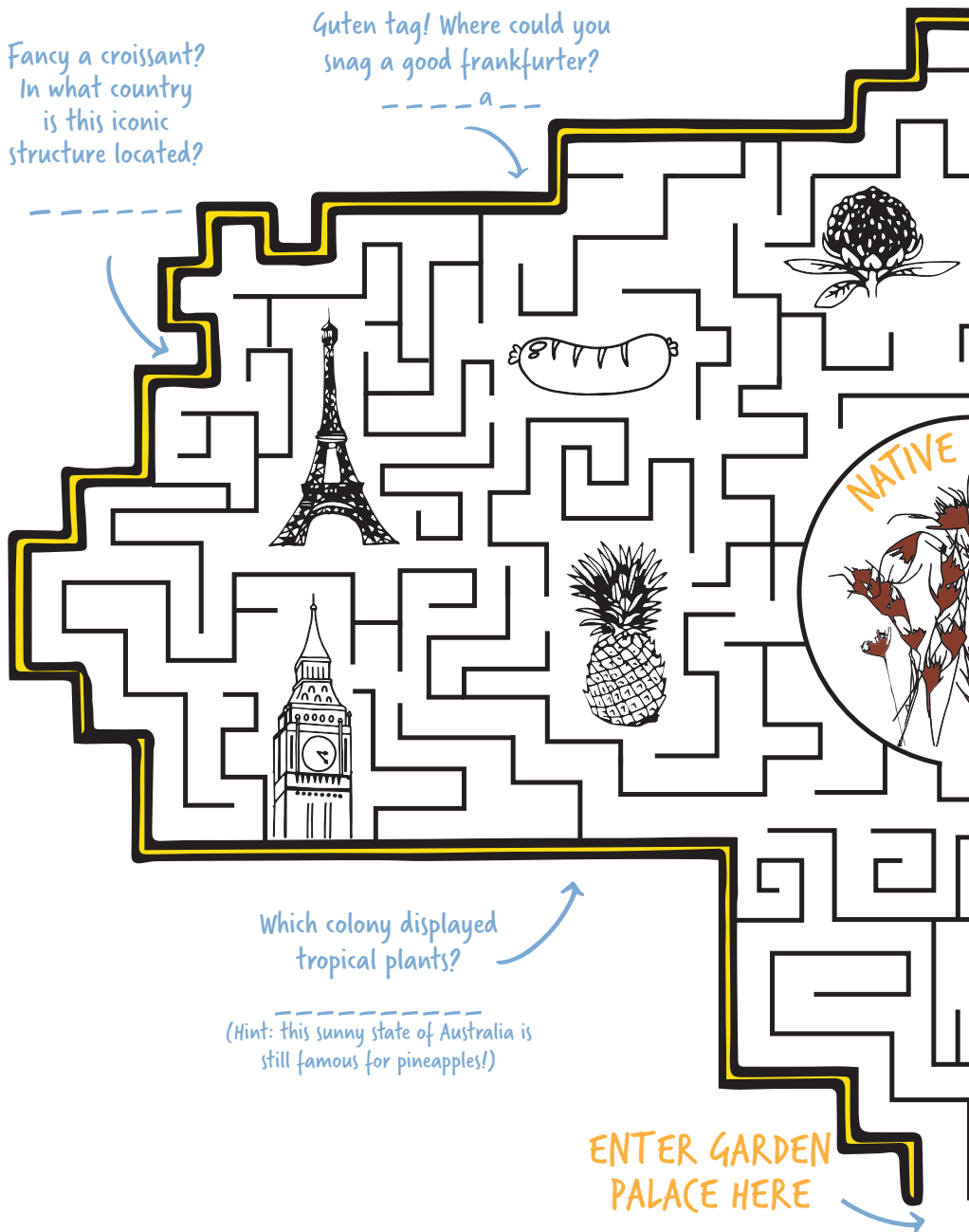


Answers: 1: (b), 2: (c), 3: (c), 4: (a), 5: (b)

Find your way through the maze in the  
Try to pass through each of the exhibits on your

Fancy a croissant?  
In what country  
is this iconic  
structure located?

Guten tag! Where could you  
snag a good frankfurter?

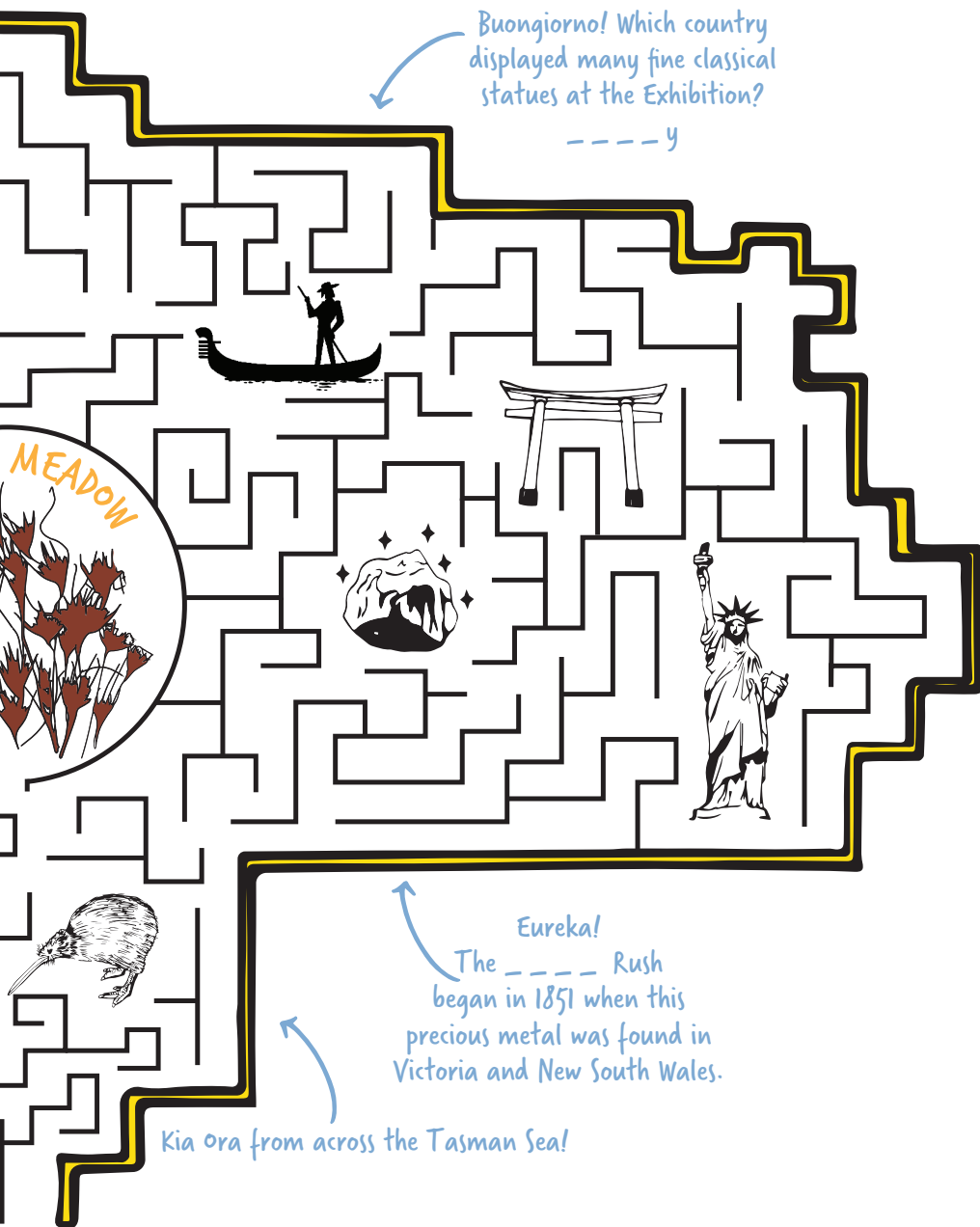


Which colony displayed  
tropical plants?

(Hint: this sunny state of Australia is  
still famous for pineapples!)

# Sydney International Exhibition.

way to the native kangaroo grass meadow.



# After the fire...

Draw yourself (in your favourite hat!)  
with this well-dressed man



What can you see scattered on the ground? .....

What might the man be saying? .....

.....

Imagine you witnessed the Garden Palace fire from your bedroom window.

Complete this letter to your friend using words from the list below.  
Then write your account of how the fire may have started.

Macquarie Street,  
September 22nd 1882

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We woke up early because we wanted to see the \_\_\_\_\_. As soon as we reached the window, we noticed black \_\_\_\_\_ of smoke coming from the Garden Palace. At first, we could see bright \_\_\_\_\_ flames flickering, and then the whole building was on \_\_\_\_\_.

We could hear the sounds of glass \_\_\_\_\_ and wood and bricks \_\_\_\_\_. Suddenly, like an explosion, the enormous \_\_\_\_\_ completely caved in! After a while, the \_\_\_\_\_ was so intense that we had to move away from the window.

The next morning, nothing was left except for piles of \_\_\_\_\_ and rubble. Even the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Queen had gone - some say that it \_\_\_\_\_ away and streamed down the hill like a river!

Nobody knows for sure how the fire started. Was it an accident? Did someone set it on fire on purpose? I think that the fire happened because...

Word list: comet orange shattering dome statue bricks  
clouds fire crashing heat melted

# 15,000 shields

outline the footprint  
of the Garden Palace!!

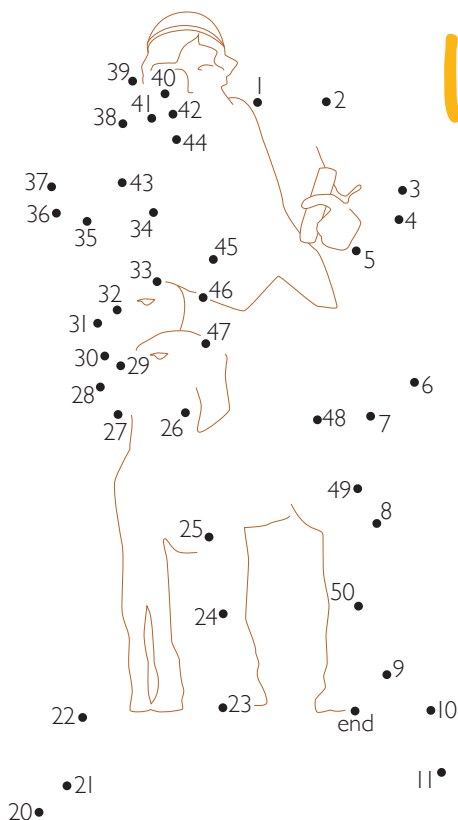
Complete the four different shield designs.



These shields are  
based on designs  
from across south-east  
Australia. They represent  
some of the Aboriginal  
objects that were displayed  
in the International Exhibition  
and destroyed in the fire.

What do you think shields were originally used for?

- (a) identification of different Aboriginal groups
- (b) protection and defence
- (c) ceremony
- (d) all of the above



# listen...

Join the dots to discover

who has heard the stories  
of the Garden Palace.

Can you find these fellows  
in the Royal Botanic  
Garden today?

If they could speak-what  
would they tell us about the  
Garden Palace?

What other voices and  
stories can you hear echoing  
underneath the trees?

18• •19

•13

•14

17•

•15

16•

# SPECIAL THANKS

KALDOR  
PUBLIC  
ART  
PROJECTS

Presenting Partner



Lead Patrons



NAOMI  
MILGROM  
FOUNDATION

Lead Corporate Partner



Commonwealth Bank

Philanthropic Partners

Bloomberg  
Philanthropies

Education Partners



Government Partners



Sue Saxon, Education & Public Program Manager  
Antonia Fredman, Education & Public Program Coordinator  
Stephanie Davies, Education & Public Program Assistant  
Ivana Taylor, Education & Public Program Assistant  
Barbara Martusewicz, Designer  
Jonathan Jones, Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist  
Uncle Charles Madden, Gadigal Elder

Pick up your free copy of the Project Guide to  
find out more about Kaldor Public Art Project 32:  
Jonathan Jones' *barrangal dyara* (skin and bones),  
presented in the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney,  
17 September – 3 October 2016

[kaldorartprojects.org.au](http://kaldorartprojects.org.au)  
[#barrangaldyara](https://twitter.com/barrangaldyara)

# Post Card

on \_\_\_\_ day, \_\_\_\_ ber,  
 I travelled from \_\_\_\_ to visit  
 Jonathan Jones' project barrangal dyara (skin  
 and bones). His artwork, recalling the \_\_\_\_  
 Palace (1879-1882), features three key elements:  
 \_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_ The Garden Palace was destroyed  
 by \_\_\_\_ Jonathan made 15,000 shields to  
 mark the footprint of the Garden Palace. There  
 are \_\_\_\_ different shield designs. Did you know  
 that Aboriginal people were the first to make  
 \_\_\_\_?! I learned that Gadigal people used  
 plants for \_\_\_\_.

Write the address on the lines

-----

-----

-----

-----

